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SWAFFHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Together With The
REPORT
of the
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1957

S T A F F

<u>Medical Officer of Health</u>	Robert N.C. McCurdy, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
<u>Public Health Inspector</u>	D.B. Foxwell, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

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GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	93,216
Population (estimated at mid-year by Registrar General)	9,210
Number of Inhabited Houses.....	3,071
Rateable Value.....	£57,946
Produce of 1d Rate.....	£235

Mr. Chairman,
My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1957.

There have been a number of favourable trends in the health of the District during the year. The Birthrate has risen to 18.3 per thousand of the population and is now well above the national rate of 16.1. The Deathrate, however, rose and is now 9.8 per thousand of the population, but it is still considerably below the national rate of 11.5. The number of accidental deaths rose from 2 in 1956 to 5 in 1957. There were no deaths from tuberculosis

Two epidemics occurred during the year, Measles principally in Mundford and Necton, and Whooping Cough in Saham. Of the two cases of Poliomyelitis notified, one was paralytic and the other was not confirmed. No cases of food poisoning were notified.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1949
Regulation 20

At the beginning of the year restrictions were in force on the sale of milk from one herd owing to the presence of tubercle bacilli. The milk was declared free from infection, and the restrictions were lifted before the end of the year.

MEDICAL STATISTICS

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births</u>	77	92	169
<u>Stillbirths</u>	2	2	4

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Population at mid-year. Births, Birthrate, Stillbirths

Stillbirth Rate during the past five years

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Population	8,980	9,030	8,710	9,000	9,210
Births (total)	163	146	125	151	169
Birthrate per 1,000 of population	18.1	16.2	14.4	16.8	18.3
Stillbirths	2	2	3	3	4
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 of population	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births	12.1	13.5	23.4	19.5	23.1

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>All ages</u>	40	50	90
<u>Infants under 1 year</u>	2	1	3

Causes of Death of Infants under 1 Year

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Birth injury	2	0	2
Congenital abnormality	0	1	1

Population at mid-year, deaths, deathrate, infant deaths, infant mortality rate, during the past five years

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Population	8,980	9,030	8,710	9,000	9,210
Deaths	84	91	85	74	90
Deathrate per 1,000 of population	9.4	10.1	9.8	8.2	9.8
Infant Deaths	2	1	3	4	3
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	12.3	6.8	24.0	26.5	17.8

Deaths from certain selected causes during
the past five years

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Tuberculosis	1	0	0	2	0
Bronchitis & Pneumonia	10	14	6	5	9
Other notifiable infectious diseases	0	0	0	0	0
Motor vehicle & other accidents	1	3	4	2	5
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer of lung and bronchus	1	4	2	2	1
Cancer of all other sites	10	17	9	11	17

Deaths according to Ages (compiled)
From Returns submitted by the District Registrar

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	2	1	3
1 and under 5	0	1	1
5 10	0	0	0
10 20	0	0	0
20 30	0	1	1
30 40	0	1	1
40 50	2	1	3
50 60	5	4	9
60 70	7	10	17
70 80	14	13	27
80 90	8	16	24
90 and over	2	2	4
TOTALS	40	50	90

Causes of Death at ages above 1 year
and below 50

Age Group	Sex	Cause
1 to 5	Female	Road accident
20 to 30	Female	Cerebral haemorrhage
30 to 40	Female	Cancer of breast
40 to 50	Male Male Female	Heart failure Accidental electric shock Cerebral haemorrhage

Deaths from all Causes
(Registrar General's Short List)

Slst No	Cause	Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0	0
2	Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3	Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
4	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8	Measles	0	0	0
9	Other infective & parasitic diseases	1	0	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2	3
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	0	1
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	2	2
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	1	1
14	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	5	6	11
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0	0
16	Diabetes	0	0	0
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	16	19
18	Coronary disease, angina	4	4	8
19	Hypertension with heart disease	0	1	1
20	Other heart disease	4	5	9
21	Other circulatory disease	6	4	10
22	Influenza	0	0	0
23	Pneumonia	2	3	5
24	Bronchitis	4	0	4
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0	0
26	Ulcers of stomach and duodenum	0	0	0
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	0	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0	0
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	2	0	2
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	0	1	1
32	Other defined & ill-defined diseases	4	1	5
33	Motor vehicle accidents	0	1	1
34	All other accidents	1	3	4
35	Suicide	1	0	1
36	Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
TOTALS	All causes	40	50	90

The following table compares birth rates, death rates etc, of this district with those of England and Wales and of the Administrative County of Norfolk in 1957

	England & Wales	Norfolk	Swaffham R.D.
Birthrate	16.1	15.4	18.3
Stillbirth rate per 1000 total births	22.4	22.5	23.1
Deathrate	11.5	11.7	9.8
Infant Mortality rate per 1000 live births	23.0	22.5	17.8
Tuberculosis death rate per 1000 population	0.11	0.07	0.0
Lung Cancer death rate per 1000 population	0.43	0.29	0.11

Infectious diseases notified during the past five Years

Disease	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Tuberculosis, all sites	7	4	1	1	2
Scarlet fever	48	8	9	12	4
Whooping cough	98	100	0	5	65
Malaria	0	0	0	1	0
Erysipelas	0	0	1	0	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum	0	1	0	0	0
Dysentery	1	0	0	0	0
Measles	159	143	43	88	131
Poliomyelitis	0	2	4	0	2
Pneumonia	5	11	12	9	2
Infectious Jaundice	12	5	0	1	5
Food poisoning	0	1	0	2	0
Puerperal pyrexia	0	0	1	2	0

Infectious Diseases notified in 1957 by ages

Disease	Under 1	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	Ovr 65	To- tal.
Tuberculosis all sites	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
Scarlet Fever	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	4
Whooping cough	5	27	28	3	1	0	1	0	65
Erysipelas	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Measles	3	47	60	14	4	3	0	0	131
Poliomyelitis	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Pneumonia	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Infectious Jaundice	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	5

Infectious Diseases notified in 1957 by month
of notification

Disease	Jany.	Feby.	Mrch.	Aprl.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Tuberculosis all sites	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Scarlet Fever	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	4
Whooping cough	7	25	5	12	12	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	65
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Measles	0	16	35	4	6	26	34	3	2	1	0	4	131
Poliomye- litis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Pneumonia	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Infectious Jaundice	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5

Infectious Diseases notified in 1957
according to Parishes

	T.B. all sites	Scarlet fever	Whooping cough	Erysipelas	Measles	Polio-myelitis	Pneumonia	Infectious Jaundice
Ashill	0	0	1	0	4	0	1	1
Beechamwell	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Bradenham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cockley Cley	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Cranwich	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Cressingham Gt.	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cressingham Lt.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Didlington	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0
Foulden	0	0	12	0	1	0	0	0
Gooderstone	0	0	3	1	8	0	0	0
Hilborough	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Holme Hale	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Ickburgh	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Lynford	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Mundford	0	0	0	0	46	0	0	0
Narborough	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Narford	0	0	5	0	4	0	0	0
Necton	0	0	4	0	37	0	0	0
Newton	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Oxborough	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Pickenham N.	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pickenham S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saham Toney	0	0	23	0	3	0	0	1
Southacre	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0
Sporle	0	0	3	0	5	0	1	0
Stanford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sturston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Weeting	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0
TOTALS	2	4	65	1	131	2	2	5

The following Table shows the number of Cases
on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st December
1957 compared with 31st December 1956

	<u>Respiratory</u>			<u>Non-respiratory</u>			<u>Grand Total</u>
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
31.12.56	16	13	29	3	3	6	35
31.12.57	16	10	26	3	2	5	31

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I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

R.N.C. McCURDY

Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for 1957

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your consideration, my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1957.

1. RECORD OF INSPECTIONS

Drainage & Sewerage	245
Housing	407
Refuse Collection and Disposal	55
Food Premises	54
Water Supplies	64
Infectious Disease	15
Moveable Dwellings	9
Factories	16
Rat Infestation	31
Milk & Dairies	10
Verminous Premises	6
Miscellaneous	67
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	979
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2. COMPLAINTS & NUISANCES

33 reported nuisances were investigated and in all cases abatement was secured by informal action.

3. HOUSING

Informal action has been successful in most cases of complaint relating to the condition of property and minor repairs have been carried out as a result.

5 Notices of Time and Place under the Housing Acts 1936 and 1957 were served during the year as a result of which there were -

- 2 Demolition Orders
- 2 Closing Orders
- 1 Undertaking to repair

Many owners of property have shown interest in the improvement of houses with grant aid under the Housing Act 1949.

Investigation was made in the case of preliminary enquiries relating to 45 houses.

Grants totalling £5148 were approved during the year for the improvement of 17 houses.

4. WATER SUPPLIES

Samples of water from Council main piped supplies were taken regularly during the year. A total of 40 samples were taken and upon bacteriological examination 36 proved to be satisfactory, 2 unsatisfactory and 2 suspicious.

14 samples of water were taken from private sources and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological

examination. Of these 8 proved satisfactory, 5 unsatisfactory and 1 suspicious.

1 sample submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis proved to be satisfactory.

5. INFECTIOUS DISEASE

3 reported cases of poliomyelitis were investigated, one being subsequently confirmed and the other two unconfirmed. In each case disinfection was carried out following the removal of the patient and contacts traced and notified. In no case could the origin of the disease be determined.

Disinfection was carried out in four further cases following the removal of patients suffering with infectious disease.

3 reported cases of anthrax in cattle were investigated. In each case disinfection of premises and incineration of the carcase was carried out under the supervision of the Police.

6. DISINFESTATION

Disinfestation was carried out at three houses following reported infestation in one case by fleas and in two other cases by mites. The mites referred to were subsequently identified as book lice and gooseberry mites respectively.

7. SEWERAGE

A sewerage scheme serving the village of Hilborough was completed during the year and put into operation.

At the end of the period under review, six villages in the district are sewered, namely Great Oressingham, Mundford, Saham Toney, Sporle, Weeting and Hilborough.

A scheme for sewerage in the village of Necton was completed but work was not commenced.

Where no sewer is available drainage from the Council's post war housing sites is disposed of mostly by subsoil irrigation after treatment in septic tanks. These tanks have been emptied at regular intervals with the Council's cesspool emptier particular attention being given to those sited in areas where the nature of the subsoil renders soakage difficult.

The services of the cesspool emptier were available for work at private houses, a charge of 35/- for the first load and 20/- for any subsequent loads on the same day, being made.

252 visits to private properties were made in this manner during the year.

All works of new drainage were inspected before covering.

8. PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse collection was carried out throughout the district by contract, one collection per month being made.

There are signs that the public are becoming more refuse collection minded in the district as the amount of refuse put out for collection has tended to increase and continues to do so. Complaints were again received regarding the infrequency of collections particularly from areas in which new housing estates have been developed.

7 pits continued to be used for disposal purposes and were inspected from time to time. No nuisance was caused, but occasional unauthorised tipping caused inconvenience and where it was possible to trace the source of this, the matter was taken up with the persons responsible.

All tips were treated during the year for minor rat infestation.

9. FOOD PREMISES

Food premises in the district coming within the scope of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 and the Council's Clean Food Bye-Laws numbered 79.

These consist of :-

36	General Stores
3	Butchers shops
3	Fried Fish shops
1	Wet Fish shop
3	Bakehouses
2	Cafes
31	Public Houses

54 Visits were made to food premises during the year, mostly in connection with the Food Hygiene Regulations. Further progress was made in securing fittings to comply with the Regulations and advice regarding clean food handling was frequently given particularly in the cases of the two Cafes where there is more danger of food poisoning through unsatisfactory methods of handling, preparing and storing food.

3 Fried Fish Shops are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955.

10. MEAT INSPECTION

Meat was inspected at Slaughterhouses in Swaffham and Thetford for short periods during the absence of the responsible officers.

The total meat inspected was :-

Cattle	192
Calves	1
Sheep	25
Pigs	277

11. MILK AND DAIRIES

17 Milk Distributors and 8 Dairies are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949. Regular inspections were made and the premises found to be satisfactory.

11 Dealers Licences to sell milk under the Special Designations 'Tuberculin Tested' and 'Pasteurised' were issued.

In addition Supplementary Licences to sell milk as 'Tuberculin Tested' and 'Pasteurised' were issued to 5 holders of Licences issued by neighbouring authorities.

12. ICE CREAM

No ice cream is manufactured in the district. 21 shops are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 for the sale of ice cream, this being pre-packed and stored in refrigerated cabinets.

Six samples were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. In all cases the report showed the samples to be Provisional Grade I.

13. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

9 Licences to station trailer caravans on sites within the district were granted during the year.

14. RODENT CONTROL

Part-time operators were again employed during the year to carry out surveys under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, to determine the presence of rat infestations. Where requested, these operators also acted in private capacity in the treatment of infestations found.

15. FACTORIES

There are 15 factories within the meaning of the Factories Act 1937 in the district. Inspections were made with regard to adequacy and maintenance of sanitary conveniences.

Building sites within the district were visited with regard to the provision of adequate sanitary conveniences.

Yours obediently,

D.B. FOXWELL

Public Health Inspector

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the following part of the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

1. WATER SUPPLIES

All major waterworks installations in the Council's area have been completed. Generally speaking the Rural District can be divided into two zones :-

- i. The Eastern, which is supplied by a Regional Scheme with its headworks at Bradenham. Consumption in this area is approximately 120,000 gallons per day, and the Parishes supplied are Bradenham, Ashill, Holme Hale, Necton, North Pickenham, South Pickenham, Saham Toney and Sporle. Water is also sold in bulk from this source to the Mitford and Launditch Rural District Council for supplying their Parishes of Dunham and Shipdham.

Water from the Bradenham source, in common with most other waters in the locality is, in its raw state, hard, and has rather a high iron content. Both these are dealt with effectively by the Spiractor lime softening plant, the hardness being reduced from 410 parts per million to 140 parts per million, and the iron content of 2.5 parts per million is removed.

Bacteriologically, the water is of a very high standard, although the final water, before passing to service, is chlorinated by an automatic gas chlorination plant.

- ii. The Western zone, which is more sparsely populated, is supplied from individual small headworks or 'village schemes'. It will be seen that the Parishes of Gooderstone and Beechamwell are linked and have a common reserve storage at Gooderstone. Consumption in this area is 60,100 gallons per day, made up as follows :-

		<u>Gallons per day</u>
Beechamwell	} One Headworks at	
Gooderstone		8,200
Cockley Cley		1,700
Cressingham, Little		3,800
Cressingham, Great		3,000
Foulden		2,300
Hilborough		2,100
Mundford		20,000
Narborough		8,200
Oxborough		2,800
For the Parish of Wecting water is purchased from Mildenhall R.D.C. The quantity used per day is approximately		8,000
		<u>60,100</u>

The iron content of water from the sources of the Western Area is negligible and does not cause any difficulty from the waterworks point of view. The total hardness of water from the village schemes is 200 parts per million and no softening takes place on any of the small schemes.

The total amount of water produced by the Council's Undertaking is accordingly 180,100 gallons per day.

2. HOUSING

During the year 42 Council Houses were completed, bringing the total number owned by the Council up to 942. In addition there were 24 converted Hutments in use as dwellings in the Parish of Weeting.

Yours obediently,

T.M. JENKINS

Surveyor

